

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYNN MARLETT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mrs. Lynn Marlett by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor Mrs. Lynn Marlett for her distinguished and devoted service to her profession and to our community as a registered nurse.

Mrs. Marlett has worked in the Las Vegas area as a Certified Nurse Practitioner since 1999, specializing in gastroenterology. Mrs. Marlett has also closely worked with patients on treatment and collecting data regarding Chronic Hepatitis C.

Mrs. Marlett has extensive knowledge in treating patients with Hepatitis C as well as Cirrhosis and Liver Cancer. Recently, Ms. Marlett has worked with the Health District of Nevada as an Educational Liaison. Her research and knowledge were an invaluable resource for the Health District and her colleagues as a whole. Lynn's professionalism and compassion have earned her the respect of her colleagues and have made her invaluable to her patients.

Mrs. Marlett resides in Las Vegas, Nevada with her husband and two daughters.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Lynn Marlett. Her commitment, passion, and dedication to nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HALEY WHATLEY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Haley Whatley of North Richland Hills has just been named one of the top two honorees in Texas by The 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Haley, a seventh-grader, was nominated by Smithfield Middle School in North Richland Hills. In honor of this achievement, Haley will receive a \$1,000 reward and an engraved silver medallion. She also won a trip to Washington D.C. this May to join the other top

nominees from around the country. All the honorees will attend several national recognition events and ten of the participants will be named America's top youth volunteers for 2008.

Haley's passion for volunteering began at a young age. When she was six-years-old, Haley saw a television commercial about kids with cancer, and wanted to do something to cheer up the young patients. She began collecting stuffed bunnies during an Easter campaign, and collected 600 bunnies her first year. Since then, she has found several corporate sponsors, spoken to more than 50 civic groups, and enlisted the help of more than 30 "bunny ambassadors" to help collect bunnies from the community each year. Her tireless efforts have yielded more than 13,000 bunnies for sick children in the last 7 years.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 12 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 80,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national level.

Ms. Whatley should be extremely proud to have been selected from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I sincerely thank Haley for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. It is an honor to represent such an extraordinary young person in the 26th district of Texas, and I earnestly look forward to seeing the present and future results of her tremendous promise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 243, Motion to Table, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

ZACHARY PATTERSON OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA NAMED BRIGGS & STRATTON DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH REGIONAL CHAMPION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, baseball is the great American pastime, but for twelve-year-old Zachary Patterson of St. Petersburg, baseball provided one of the greatest American lessons.

He learned that with the confidence he gained on the ball field, he could overcome the greatest of obstacles including bullying by his classmates at school. Zachary, a seventh-grader at Admiral Farragut Academy, wrote an essay about his experiences for Briggs and Stratton's "Diamonds in the Rough" competition. The essay was to relate how baseball helped players find the power within to overcome great challenges on and off the baseball field.

Zachary's essay earned him first place in the Tampa Bay region and \$5,000, and a variety of lawn equipment to help the Azalea Little League, in which he has played for eight years. Following my remarks, I will include an article from The St. Petersburg Times about Zachary's experience and also a copy of his winning essay.

Madam Speaker, last October, this House approved legislation with my support calling attention to the serious problem of bullying in our Nation's schools and commending schools for promoting greatest public awareness about bullying and bullying prevention activities. Zachary Patterson has taken his own initiative to call attention to this national problem by reflecting on the impact bullying has had on his life. Please join me in congratulating Zachary for being honored for his efforts and in thanking him for his willingness to tackle this problem head on at the age of twelve.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, April 4, 2008]

BASEBALL CHANGED HIS LIFE

(By Michael Maharrey)

ST. PETERSBURG.—Laughter drifted across the dusty baseball diamond as Zachary Patterson tossed the ball back and forth with a coach. Joy lit up his face, even in the bright afternoon sun.

Baseball has not only provided Zachary with fun times that will one day become fond childhood memories, but life lessons that make him wise beyond his 12 years.

Now his wisdom has translated to much-needed financial help for the cash-strapped Azalea Little League.

Zachary placed first in the Tampa Bay region in the Briggs and Stratton Diamonds in the Rough competition, winning \$5,000 and lawn equipment for his league.

The victory earned him the opportunity to compete against 19 other regional winners for another \$5,000 prize and a trip for four to watch the Yankees play in their final season at Yankee Stadium.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Online voting will determine the final winner.

Baseball players ranging from 7 to 14 wrote essays explaining how baseball helped them find the "power within" to overcome challenges on or off the field. Entrants came from within 30 miles of 20 select cities, including Tampa.

Zachary wrote about how kids at the military school he attends used to make fun of him, calling him a nerd and a dork. He said playing baseball gave him the confidence to deal with the taunting.

"Our coach, Joel, always says, 'We have to have confidence in ourselves before we have confidence on the field.' Wow, was he right. After playing baseball for a few years I have come to realize that kids made fun of me because I wasn't confident in myself. I ignored what others said but continued to be respectful to them," he wrote.

The seventh-grader at Admiral Farragut Academy said kids teased him because he's smart, but the confidence he gained on the baseball field taught him to be proud of all of his accomplishments, and that confidence changed his relationship with his classmates.

"Instead of people making fun of me, they are friends with me now. Everything has changed," he said.

Natasha Patterson said she has seen the transformation in her son.

"Now he is willing to try things that he wanted to do but wouldn't because he was picked on," she said. "He's really come out of his shell. Now he's proud of himself academically and strives to do better."

Zachary gets to help decide how the league will use the \$5,000 prize money. He said it needs a new tractor for field maintenance, clay to fill in holes in the diamonds, and chalk for lining the playing area.

If he wins the grand prize, he wants the league to install a handicapped-accessible water fountain.

"That way not just regular players can get a drink, but Challenger players, too," he said.

Azalea is one of only two Little League organizations in Pinellas County to feature a Challenger division. More than 100 special-needs children participate in the program, and one of Azalea's fields consists of a special rubber surface that allows kids to play baseball from wheelchairs.

Dana Hess, the league's treasurer, said the prize money couldn't have come at a better time.

Azalea's fields were built in 1969, and all of the structures and fences are original.

"We really need the money. We maintain what we can as good as we can, but everything is so old," Hess said.

But for those involved with the league, the excitement is not just about money.

"To have someone so young to write something from the heart really means a lot," Carol Vallee, a league volunteer and past president, said. "This is a well-deserved honor for him."

Zachary's mother said she hopes area residents will go online and vote for him, not only for his benefit but because of the good the prize money will do for the league.

"Voting for Zach not only helps children here and now; it will help children in the future," she said.

Voting began March 26 and continues through April 20.

ESSAY BY ZACHARY PATTERSON

I attend a small military school. Military school can be tough and the kids can be very mean. Confidence was my challenge in school. "Dork" and "Nerd" are words people used to call me everyday. I would get very angry and come home sad. I didn't have a lot of friends at school. I didn't understand why

people made fun of me for doing well. I never joined a sports team at school. I never did anything to draw any more attention to myself. I felt if I did, they would make fun of me more. Luckily, I have played baseball for Azalea Little League for 8 years. None of the kids at baseball go to my school. I am never made fun of while I am there. Every year my teammates become my friends. We treat each other with respect and work together as a team. Our Coach Joel always says "we have to have confidence in ourselves before we have confidence on the field". Wow, was he right! After playing baseball for a few years I have come to realize that kids made fun of me because I wasn't confident in myself. I ignored what others said but continued to be respectful to them. I remembered what Coach always says and built up confidence to join football, soccer, basketball, track and cross country. This year I even joined our school's elite baseball team. I'm the starting pitcher. Throughout time, my confidence in myself has outweighed the teasing of others. They now respect me and don't make fun of me. The kids who made fun of me in the past, now "high five" me! If I win, I'd help repair our field we play on. It needs a lot of work!

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HONORS THE MEMORY OF TOM LANTOS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam speaker, on Monday, April 28th, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, an organization that fights against prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender expression throughout the world, announced its posthumous recognition of our late colleague Tom Lantos for his extraordinary work on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of bigotry. The IGLHRC awarded our late colleague its OUTSPOKEN Award, in recognition of "the leadership of a global ally to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community whose outspokenness . . . contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBTI people everywhere."

Madam Speaker, I know how well deserved this award is, because I frequently turned to our greatly respected and much missed friend for help in combating anti-LGBT prejudice whenever such matters came to my attention in various other countries. Much of the time when I came to him I found that he was already hard at work in trying to address the particular injustice because no one here did more to fight for fair treatment in this regard internationally. Drawing on his considerable prestige throughout the world, and his unmatched record as a fierce defender of human rights everywhere, Tom Lantos was an invaluable ally in our fight against prejudice.

Madam Speaker, I ask in recognition of just one aspect of the extraordinary work of this extraordinary man with whom we had the pleasure and honor of serving be printed here.

[April 28, 2008]

IGLHRC HONORS THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM LANTOS

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) announced

today that it is presenting a posthumous OUTSPOKEN Award to Representative Tom Lantos, the 14-term Congressman who lost his life to cancer on February 11, 2008. IGLHRC's OUTSPOKEN Award recognizes the leadership of a global ally to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community whose outspokenness has contributed substantially to advancing the rights and understanding of LGBTI people everywhere.

"We are so deeply grateful for Representative Lantos's unwavering commitment to human rights," said Paula Ettelbrick, IGLHRC's executive director. "Throughout his life, Representative Lantos waged a steadfast fight against injustice. His voice, vision and compassion will be sorely missed by all of us in the LGBTI community."

During his fourteen terms as a member of Congress, Representative Lantos, who rose among the ranks to chair the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, was a strong and consistent voice for the rights of the disenfranchised. As the founding co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Lantos used his prestige as an internationally respected leader on human rights to hold the very first congressional briefing about the global persecution of sexual minorities. He was the author of the International Human Rights Equality Resolution, which he introduced in the 106th and 107th Congress, condemning human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people throughout the world.

Representative Lantos regularly challenged the abuses meted out by individual countries to their LGBTI citizens. For instance, along with key congressional colleagues, he protested the arrests of allegedly gay men in the United Arab Emirates, and the stoning to death of a Nigerian gay man. He also asked Congress to "withhold any support for a U.S.-Egypt Free Trade Agreement" in light of the roundup, conviction and re-conviction of reportedly gay Egyptian men, and issued a strongly worded statement asking the Nigerian Government to consider the implications of passing the Same-Sex Prohibition Act, which would have severely compromised the rights of the LGBTI community in that country.

Congressman Lantos was also a staunch ally of LGBTI Americans. He opposed a Constitutional Amendment banning gay marriage, worked to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor their "permanent partners" for U.S. residency, and introduced a bill, with Representative Baldwin, to extend basic employment rights to same-sex partners of federal employees. He campaigned for adoption rights and marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples, and supported hate-crimes legislation and anti-discrimination protections in the workplace. This is only a small part of his astounding legacy of work in support of LGBTI rights.

Born in Budapest in 1928, Congressman Lantos was the only Holocaust survivor to serve in the United States Congress. He was a teenager when the Nazi's invaded Hungary in 1944 and started rounding up Jews. After being sent to a labor camp, and escaping twice, he returned to Budapest where he joined the resistance, lived in a safe house established by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg and secretly distributed food to other Jews in hiding. At the war's end, he discovered that most of his own family had perished in the Nazi death camps. Miraculously, he managed to locate his childhood

friend, Annette Tillemann, whom he later married. He first came to the United States on an academic scholarship in 1947. He earned a Master's Degree in economics from the University of Washington in Seattle and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, teaching economics at San Francisco State University for several years before being elected to Congress in 1980.

"Representative Lantos's legacy has meant so much to our community," said Ettelbrick. "We are truly grateful for his unwavering commitment to human rights. We send our deepest condolences to his wife and family, and are honored to pay tribute to his extraordinary legacy on LGBTI rights by posthumously presenting him with our OUT-SPOKEN Award."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support Concurrent Resolution 330, supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, which urges national and community organizations, private businesses, colleges and universities to promote awareness of sexual violence and encourage strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault.

We have heard the frightening statistics too many times: 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape; a person in the United States is sexually assaulted every two-and-a-half minutes; one in four college-aged women has been sexually assaulted. These numbers do not even take into account the assaults that go unreported by victims too scared to notify law enforcement or too far from sexual assault victim centers.

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is a time to educate the American public about the unacceptable extent to which this form of violence has become common in the United States. But this month must also be a time to focus on the solutions so that come next April we can instead announce statistics measuring the progress we have made in bringing an end to sexual violence.

In communities throughout the United States, women and men are working tirelessly to develop and implement innovative programs critical to the prevention and treatment of sexual assault. In Minnesota's Fourth District, Ramsey County developed the Runaway Intervention Project, which provides counseling and support for girls who have run away—or are at risk of running away—to reduce their danger of being sexual victimized. The County also reached out to men by creating the Men's Line hotline for men to call and receive guidance on practicing healthy, peaceful relationships. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in one day, over 53,000 American men, women and children

use sexual assault services like these and others.

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, I encourage my colleagues to learn about and promote organizations in their Districts that work to prevent sexual assault, treat its survivors and prosecute its perpetrators to bring an end to this violent crisis. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and honoring those working across the country to bring an end to violence in our communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORKS OF Nanci Burton

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable local officials and a pioneer in public service, former Santa Rosa Mayor Nanci Burton. Mayor Burton died of cancer last month, at the age of 65, leaving a legacy of goodwill and good works throughout the area.

Nanci was the second woman to serve on the Santa Rosa City Council when she won her first election in 1984. She was elected mayor in 1986 and again in 1991. She once said she entered public life at a time when women were asked such questions as, "Sweetheart, do you really understand how a business operates?" As the bookkeeper for her husband's business, she could answer with an honest and resounding, "Yes."

Nanci started her two decades of public service on the Santa Rosa planning commission and other boards. She believed that if you want change, you have to get involved.

"She was a fierce advocate for the city, the neighborhoods and all its citizens," said Dan Galvin, a friend who served on her first election campaign. "She left her mark on projects and causes throughout the city."

Nanci was not only effective, with an impressive resume of accomplishments, but she was fun. "What many people will remember most about Burton," notes the Press Democrat editorial, "was her spirited participation in the job at hand, her hometown pride, the joy she took in her children and grandchildren—and her infectious laugh, which livened many dull meetings."

Madam Speaker, Nanci Burton was a treasure to the city of Santa Rosa and its surrounding areas. She will be greatly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDY LUCAS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to honor a woman who has become a fixture in local politics in my District. Sandy Lucas is not an elected official or a paid political operative, but has become what can only be described as the voice of common sense in our community.

After graduating from the University of Arizona, with a bachelor's degree in history,

Sandy began her career in public service in 1974 as Director of the Counseling Job Corps in San Jose. In 1975, she became Director of Polydrug Abuse and Heroin Detox for Santa Clara County. By 1976, Sandy had obtained her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist. She currently serves as the Director of Family and Probate for Stanislaus County.

While Sandy's list of professional achievements is lengthy, it is her accomplishments as a volunteer on local government boards that make her the "go to" person when gauging the pulse of the community. As a member of the Modesto School Bond Committee, she worked to successfully pass much needed school bonds. She has served for 6 years on the Stanislaus County Commission on Aging, and most recently acted as a member of the Modesto City Charter Review Committee, working hard to update antiquated rules governing a city of more than 200,000.

Sandy Lucas has also been active on a statewide level with the Democratic Party. She spent several years as a California Democratic Party Regional Director, ensuring the voice of California's Central Valley was heard by party leaders.

Being heard has never been a problem for Sandy Lucas. Her quick wit, tempered reactions, and oh so colorful responses to various occurrences in our community have garnered the respect of area leaders. Sandy's training as a mediator has served her well in politics and given her the ability to see highly divisive issues from every angle, thus bringing workable solutions to the table.

On May 2, 2008, Sandy will receive the coveted Liberty Bell Award from the Stanislaus County Bar Association for all of the aforementioned reasons. Sandy has been a gem to our community, and I am honored, Madam Speaker, to have this opportunity to thank her for her selfless service and wish her the very best in continued community involvement.

A TRIBUTE TO JAN SCHORI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jan Schori's 14 years of service as general manager of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Ms. Schori leaves a lasting legacy in Sacramento and her leadership and expertise will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest public servants.

After earning her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and her law degree from the University of California, Davis, Ms. Schori has spent nearly the last three decades advocating for environmentally friendly and affordable energy in Sacramento. She began her career with SMUD in 1979 as an attorney; and spent 15 years on the utility's legal staff, five of which were as their general counsel. In February of 1994 she was appointed as SMUD's general manager. During her time with SMUD, Ms. Schori has held various other leadership positions in the utility industry. She has served as chair on the boards of the American Public

Power Association, the Large Public Power Council, the California Municipal Utilities Association and the National Business Council for Sustainable Energy. In addition, she has been a tireless advocate for clean energy and is on the board of the California Climate Action Registry and the National Alliance to Save Energy.

Under her leadership, SMUD has made many significant improvements in lowering their rates, improving their reliability, increasing their renewable energy programs and their overall customer satisfaction. Ms. Schori helped keep rates 20 to 30 percent below private energy companies, and earned bond rating upgrades from the major credit rating agencies. During her tenure, Ms. Schori worked to establish and expand SMUD solar programs, new energy efficiency goals, and a Greenergy program that has become one of the largest in the nation. SMUD is now a leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Due to these efforts, SMUD has been ranked by JD Power and Associates as one of the top providers in California for residential customers and one of the top in the nation for commercial customers.

Ms. Schori's 14 years as general manager of SMUD is the longest of any general manager in SMUD's 61 year history. Her dedication to our community is apparent through her work both with SMUD and with other local non-profits. She serves on the board and is treasurer of Valley Vision. She also actively supports the United Way California Capitol Region's Foster Youth Initiative and was the 2006 recipient of the DeTocqueville philanthropy award. Personally, Ms. Schori has been a pleasure to work with. Her thoughtfulness and intelligence has empowered employees to work diligently with an open door policy. She has also routinely testified in front of Congressional committees on energy issues.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Jan Schori's distinguished commitment to Sacramento and our energy needs. Ms. Schori's outstanding leadership and dedication to SMUD, has helped promote the use of clean, renewable energy resources that not only benefits our community, but also sets an example for other providers across the state nation. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Ms. Schori's husband Case Buttermann, colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker on rollcall No. 244, motion to adjourn, had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

IN MEMORIAL OF SGT. STEPHEN LICZBINSKI

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On Saturday May 3, 2008, Sgt. Stephen Liczbinski, a 12-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department and a constituent of the 13th Congressional District, was shot and killed while responding to a bank robbery.

Sgt. Liczbinski, who would have turned 40 today, left behind a wife, Michelle, and three children, Matt, Steven, and Amber. He was known to his friends and colleagues as "the real deal," "a great family man," and "a hero."

Sgt. Liczbinski spent most of his career working South Philadelphia as a beat cop in the Fourth District. In November 2007, he moved to the 24th District where he was promoted to Sergeant and became a valuable asset to his fellow officers. He was known as a great supervisor who treated all of his colleagues equally.

When he wasn't on the clock, Sgt. Liczbinski was known as a dedicated father who would bring his entire family with him to police barbecues.

His last words, according to the brave Northeast Philadelphia residents who ran out of their homes to provide him with comfort and assistance was "Tell my wife I'll miss her."

Like many in Philadelphia, I'm hurt and shocked that we've lost yet another courageous, outstanding officer. Unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. The lack of respect for our law enforcement officers and the failure to respect the life of any human is appalling and intolerable.

Our city owes Sgt. Liczbinski its eternal gratitude for the sacrifice he made to protect the public from these heinous criminals.

In respect of that sacrifice, I ask that the whole House of Representatives extend its condolences to Michelle Liczbinski, her family, and the Philadelphia Police Department for their loss.

May our thoughts and prayers ease their grief and help sustain the dedicated men and women of the Philadelphia Police Department who put themselves in harms way every day to protect the safety of our families and communities.

THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate Cinco de Mayo, the historic celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

On May 5th, 1862, Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin led 4,000 Mexican troops into battle against the French in the Battle of Puebla, just 100 miles from Mexico City. General Seguin led his brave troops to a spirited victory in spite of being badly outnumbered and lacking the modern weaponry possessed by the French.

The Mexican effort in the Battle of Puebla epitomized courage, as the outmanned troops survived three bloody French assaults and finally achieved resounding success. Numerous Mexicans gave their lives not solely for their country, but also for the timeless values of freedom and justice. The tremendous fight put up by the Mexican troops at the Battle of Puebla also had a substantial impact on the United States' history, as the French defeat provided President Lincoln with crucial support as the Civil War descended into chaos.

There can be no doubting the bravery, spirit or patriotism of the thousands of Mexican troops who fought and, all too frequently, gave their lives at the Battle of Puebla. In the spirit of remembering the sacrifices of those troops, Cinco de Mayo provides us with a perfect opportunity to recognize the sacrifice for sovereignty, the importance of courage and, above all, the universal yearning for freedom.

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated throughout Mexico and the United States with a joyous mixture of food, music and dancing. It has also taken on great significance in the United States as a day to celebrate broadly the culture and ancestry of Americans of Mexican heritage.

The Mexican forces who won the Battle of Puebla should not and will not ever be forgotten, nor will the values for which they fought. I commend those forces for their spirit and courage and I wish all those celebrating the holiday across Mexico and the United States a happy Cinco de Mayo.

ON THE PASSING OF YOSSI HAREL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to note the recent passing of Yossi Harel, the legendary Haganah commander responsible for shepherding thousands of Jewish refugees through British blockades and to safety in the nascent Jewish homeland.

Harel was perhaps best known for commanding the ship Exodus 1947, which was intercepted off the coast of Haifa by British warships in July 1947, carrying 4,553 Jewish refugees from Europe.

The unconscionable decision by the British authorities to send these Holocaust survivors aboard the Exodus back to Germany focused the world's attention on the plight of Jewish refugees and their desire to leave the fetid displaced persons camps in Europe for a new life in soon to be sovereign Israel.

Members of the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine saw first hand as these refugees, with their meager possessions, were unloaded from the ramshackle Exodus 1947 in the port of Haifa and prepared for their return to Europe—all just precious feet away from the land they had so desperately yearned to reach.

Incredibly these refugees—just two years removed from the horrors of the Holocaust—were held by the British in a former S.S. concentration camp after their return to Germany. This shocked the conscious of much of the world and further galvanized opinion against the British blockage and in favor of the establishment of a Jewish state in Mandate-era Palestine.

The story of those aboard the Exodus 1947 and their harrowing journey to Haifa was immortalized in Leon Uris's novel *Exodus* and subsequent film featuring the character Ari Ben-Canaan based on Harel himself and played by Paul Newman.

Though Harel is best known for commanding *Exodus 1947*, he also led three other ships to the shores of Israel, helping 24,000 refugees find safe harbor in the Promised Land—all by the time he was 28.

Today we mourn the loss of a great hero, who not only touched the lives of these 24,000 refugees and won the admiration of millions of people worldwide, but also came to symbolize the determination and pluck of the modern state of Israel.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES
MEADERS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, A man name Charles Meaders from Newton, Mississippi had a soldier's heart, a soldier's honor, and responded to our Nation's call with a soldier's duty. He passed away last month but due to a twist of fate, he did not receive soldier's burial.

Mr. Meaders was in the United States Armed Forces during the Korean conflict. However, he contracted a serious case of pneumonia and was shipped home and discharged, short of the time required to be recognized for veterans' benefits. I've known the Meaders family for a long time and they are educators, soldiers, and hard working Mississippians. Mrs. Bobbie Meaders, who dearly loved her husband Charles, is an active and feisty 72-year-old former nurse.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the memory of Charles Meaders and for my office to deliver to his wife her only request, a proper American flag that memorializes her husband's service to the American armed forces. I hope Congress joins me and remembering this patriot and will hold Mrs. Bobbie Meaders in your thoughts during her time of grief.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, May 5, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 952, the vote to table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 952, H. Res. 1011, the vote to table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 1011, and the motion to adjourn and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall #240 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 952, to establish a National Teacher's Day, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall #241 on tabling the motion to reconsider the vote on H. Res. 952, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall #242 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1011, Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall #243 on tabling the motion to reconsider the vote on H. Res. 1011, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall #244 on the motion to adjourn, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate the 2008 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District. The following individuals have accepted academy appointments:

Harrison Michael Green, Believers Academy, Air Force Academy; Blair William Kessler, Boerne High School, Air Force Academy; Robert Francis Belz, Health Careers High School, Air Force Academy; Lucas Samuel Johnson, Boerne High School, Air Force Academy; Philip Nicholas Valenzo, MacArthur High School, Air Force Academy; David Kirby Ford, Antonian College Preparatory High School, Military Academy; Nicholas Enrique Ocegueda, New Braunfels High School/US Military Prep School, Military Academy; Thomas Reagan Schiller, Vista Ridge High School, Military Academy; Raymond Anthony Gonzales II, Reagan High School, Military Academy; Karen Elaine Gilkey, MacArthur High School, Merchant Marine Academy; and Padraig G. O'Hara, Fredericksburg High School, Merchant Marine Academy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 240, H. Res. 952—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THOMAS S. CONLEY,
SR. OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who was wounded in service

to our Nation during the conflict in Vietnam. Mr. Thomas S. Conley, Sr. is a Marine who served with honor and distinction on the battlefield. It is truly an honor to present this brave patriot with his long overdue Purple Heart Medal.

Born in Wheeling, West Virginia, Mr. Conley's family moved to Pittsburgh when he was in ninth grade. Enlisting in the Marine Corps at the age of eighteen, Mr. Conley was one of about seventy-eight enlistees dubbed the "Pittsburgh Pirate Platoon" when, all gathered around home plate for the ceremony, they were sworn into the Marines in the 7th inning of a baseball game at Forbes Field.

After completing his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, Mr. Conley went on to attend radio operator school in California and then served as the 2531 Field Radio Operator with the 9th Marines in Vietnam. Near the end of his tour of duty, his unit was near the Rock Pile in the Northern Eye Core of Vietnam when a mortar round landed between Mr. Conley and another soldier. The other man was thrown twenty-three feet and killed, while Mr. Conley ended up with shrapnel throughout his body.

A third generation soldier whose grandfather served in World War I and his father in World War II, Mr. Conley's wounds sadly forced him to leave the military. He had planned to make a career in the Marines, but after the blast injured him in Vietnam he returned to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he remained for thirteen months prior to being discharged. Continuing the tradition of military service, Mr. Conley's three sons have all served in the Marine Corps, and one has had four tours of duty in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Thomas S. Conley, Sr. who joined the military to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men like Mr. Conley were wounded fighting for freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones know that this Congress will always remember his bravery and commitment in battle.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
DONALD L. ROBINSON

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity today to pay tribute to a great American who just recently and unexpectedly passed away.

Donald Robinson worked in the Office of Naval Intelligence and as a Chief of Staff and Staff Director on Capitol Hill in his younger years, but he is perhaps remembered best as a mentor to the hundreds of young people who came to Washington, DC to pursue an internship on Capitol Hill or with the Federal Government.

For 25 years, Donald L. Robinson worked with his wife, Sara Robinson, as a Director of the Boston University Washington Internship Program.

Madam Speaker, I pay tribute to the contribution he and his wife Sara made to enrich the lives of young people in who came to Washington to try out public service. He will be missed greatly. I would like to take the opportunity to submit his obituary in the Congressional Record today and to thank him for

assisting in launching many successful, meaningful careers.

[May 2, 2008.]

DONALD L. "ROBBIE" ROBINSON, PH.D., 71, CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER; B.U. POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

WELLFLEET.—Donald Louis "Robbie" Robinson, Ph.D., 71, a retired congressional staffer and political science professor at Boston University, died in his sleep at his home in Wellfleet, on Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

Robbie is survived by his wife of 45 years, Sara Moore Robinson. He is also survived by his daughter, Moore, his son, Marshall, his daughter-in-law, Jennifer, and his granddaughter, Aila.

Robbie was born in Ottawa, Ill., in 1936. In his youth, he was a talented trumpet player and tap dancer, who won numerous prizes. He received an academic scholarship to Northwestern University, from which he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1958, and a Master of Arts degree in 1959. While at Northwestern, he earned spending money playing trumpet in a dance band, and was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Robbie joined the Navy in the Officer Training Program, and moved to Washington, D.C., where he served in the Office of Naval Intelligence for 3½ years. During his tenure in the Navy, he began a doctoral program in International Relations at American University in Washington, D.C. He left the Navy in 1962 and received his Ph.D. in 1963.

It was at a friend's Sunday brunch, over bagels, where he met his future wife, Sara Moore, a congressional staffer. The two fell in love and were married in 1962. They had two children, a son, Marshall, in 1969, and a daughter, Margaret "Moore," born in 1971.

Dr. Robinson worked as a congressional staffer for 13 years, before retiring on disability in 1976 after being diagnosed with Crohn's disease. He was then hired by Boston University to develop a Washington, D.C., Internship Program, which he ran for 25 years. In addition, he developed internship programs for Case Western Reserve and the University of Houston. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to be a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. Dr. Robinson and his wife, an attorney, retired together and moved from Washington, D.C., to Wellfleet in 2001.

Robbie was deeply involved with the Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., first at St. Stephen and the Incarnation, and then at St. Columba's Church, where he was a lay minister. After retirement, he was a lector, lay minister and administrator of the healing rite at St. Mary of the Harbor, Provincetown.

At the time of his death, he was president of the Wellfleet Historical Society, treasurer of the Cape Cod Opera, the only nonsinging member of the board of the Outer Cape Choral, a Freemason and a Shriner. Last year, he and his wife joined dear friends on a guided tour through the Baltic States and Russia.

Robbie loved his family very much, and was delighted to meet his adored first grandchild, Aila, in January. Despite his history of chronic illness, his death came suddenly and unexpectedly, and is a great loss for all who knew him for his indomitable good cheer, his delight of conversation and his sheer enjoyment of life. He will be missed tremendously.

A memorial celebration will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008, at 3 p.m., at St. Mary of the Harbor in Provincetown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Wellfleet Historical Society (Please note: Attention Robbie Robinson Fund) at 266 Main St., Wellfleet, MA 02667.

HONORING MAJOR BERNARD WARRINGTON

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend a soldier from my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Major Bernard Warrington, Jr., who will be promoted today to lieutenant colonel. Bernard Warrington, Jr., was born in Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands in 1970. He attended public school there and graduated from Central High School in 1988. Since that time, he has distinguished himself as a soldier and a scholar, working his way up in the military, first as an infantry officer in 1992, in the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 24th Infantry Division at Ft. Benning, Georgia. While assigned to the 3rd Brigade, he deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch.

In 1996, he relocated to Ft. Hood, Texas, where he served with the 1st Cavalry Division Support Command, (DISCOM), as its Plans Officer and Assistant Brigade Operations Officer. He was then reassigned to 615th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) to command its Headquarters and Supply Company (HSC) and deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division to Bosnia, Herzegovina, in support of Operation Stabilization Forces Four (SPOR4).

Major Warrington then served as the Combat Service Support (CSS) Team Chief for the 348th Training Support Brigade (TSB) Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico, responsible for training U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Forces. He was next assigned within the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) as a G4 Power Projection Logistics Planner and Crisis Action Team member for CENTCOM during Operation Enduring Freedom.

He was deployed in 2003 to meet the 101st Corps Support Group (CSG) in Mosul, Iraq, where he served as its Brigade Operations Planner, Deputy Brigade S3 during Operation Iraqi Freedom I during its reconstitution at Ft. Campbell.

From July 2004 to December 2006, he served as both the Battalion Executive Officer and Support Operations Officer for 8th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, during which time he redeployed in 2005, with the battalion to Tikrit, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV.

Since December 2006, Major Warrington has been assigned as a plans officer to HQDA DCS g-3/5/7. He also served as an Army Congressional Associate within the office of Senator CLAIRE G. MCCASKILL. He currently serves on the Army Staff in the Army Transformation Office.

During his time in the military, Major Warrington has earned an associate of arts degree in business administration and military science from Georgia Military College, a bachelor of business administration from Georgia

College and State University, a masters of business administration in industrial operations management from InterAmerican University in Puerto Rico and has graduated from the Command and General Staff College with the Combined Logistics Officer Advance Course and the Infantry Officer Basic Course.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Army Superior Unit Award Badge, the U.S. Army Staff Badge, the Honorable Order of St. Michael, and the Honorable Order of St. Martin.

Major Warrington is married to the former TaMekii Clark of Conyers, Georgia, and they have two children, Naomi and Claude Nigel.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the 110th Congress, I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Bernard Warrington, Jr., as he is promoted from Major to lieutenant colonel and I wish him continued success in his illustrious military career.

HONORING JERRY PRIETO, JR.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Prieto, Jr. upon being honored with the "Fresno County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award" at the Fresno County Farm Bureau's Annual Banquet to be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008.

Jerry Prieto, Jr. is a native of Corcoran, California. He is the son of a former migrant farm worker and was raised in a small town with a small family. Mr. Prieto attended California State University, Fresno and obtained his Bachelor's of Science degree in Plant Science. In 1974 he began working for the Fresno County Department of Agriculture and six years later he obtained the position of Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. After nine years he went to work for Fresno County Personnel Department as a Senior Personnel Analyst. In 1993, Mr. Prieto was appointed Fresno County Resource Manager. He was responsible for solid waste issues throughout the county and operated the American Avenue Regional Landfill, the Southeast Regional Landfill and the Coalinga Landfill. He was also responsible for providing road maintenance, street lighting, garbage collection, parks, sewer and water services to ninety special districts.

In 1999, Mr. Prieto was appointed to the position of Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weight and Measures exactly twenty-five years after he began working for the department. He was responsible for promoting and regulating the nation's number one agriculture producing area. Mr. Prieto also served as a member of Governor Gray Davis' State Committee on Terrorism and the Western Weights and Measures Association Board

of Directors. He served as the first Chairman of the California Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association's Food Safety and Agriculture Security Committee. For four years he served as Chairman of the Fresno County Department Heads Council. Currently, Mr. Prieto is a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Conservation Steering Committee, Chairman of the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee, and the Fresno County Land Conservation Committee. He is the immediate President of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association and was the first Agricultural Commissioner to serve two terms as President. Mr. Prieto is the Chairman of Secretary Kawamura's AB 771 Honeybee/Seedless Mandarin Co-Existence Working Group.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jerry Prieto upon being awarded with the "Fresno County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Prieto many years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEWISH
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month.

In 2006, Congress unanimously passed H. Con. Res. 315, a resolution urging the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month. I was an original co-sponsor of that important legislation, and following our action, President Bush proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month as a means of celebrating the Jewish community's history in America in addition to their contributions to American culture. On April 29, 2008, President Bush reaffirmed his commitment of celebrating Jewish American heritage by making May 2008 Jewish American Heritage Month.

Since 1654, the American Jews have contributed to American life and society in all walks of life. The achievements of American Jews span all fields including medicine, law, entertainment, public service, technology, and literature. I take this time to celebrate those who have served our nation and propelled it successfully into the 21st century.

Throughout more than 350 years, American Jewish culture has become intertwined with American culture. The Jewish faith and spirit in combination with Jewish history and culture serve as an integral part of what this nation is today.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month and hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the American Jewish community and its commitment to enriching American society and culture.

TRIBUTE TO RITA AND JACK
SINDER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my dear friends Rita and Jack Sinder for their invaluable and outstanding service to Valley Beth Shalom Temple.

Jack and Rita have been two of the most productive members of the Valley Beth Shalom community, bringing guidance, spirituality and joy to the congregation. Jack, a former bond chair for the State of Israel Bonds, served as construction chair for the synagogue during its expansion in 1986. As construction chair, Jack planned and oversaw construction of the sanctuary, classrooms, administrative offices, chapel and the parking center. The parking center is now dedicated to the Sinders. Rita is a past president of the San Fernando Valley's Women Division of Israel Bonds and a past president of the Women's Alliance for Israel, and she continues to serve on its executive board. Jack and Rita are also founding members of the American Jewish University Wagner Program and patrons of the Wiesenthal Center.

Valley Beth Shalom continues to make extraordinary contributions to the San Fernando Valley through innovative programs that promote tolerance, increase learning, develop leadership skills, and foster social justice. Valley Beth Shalom has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to developing the community's understanding of the connection between religion and education. The temple empowers individuals, allowing their voices to be heard in our community and around the world.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jack and Rita Sinder for their outstanding service to the Valley Beth Shalom community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall no. 241, Motion to Table, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

SALUTING BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, ON ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY
AND REMARKABLE ROLE IN MINNESOTA HISTORY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great community in Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District which has played a crucial role in the history and development of our region and State.

Bloomington is our State's 5th largest city and this special city will celebrate its 150th birthday on May 11, the same day the State of Minnesota was admitted to the Union.

Madam Speaker, we salute Bloomington for its remarkable success, pioneering spirit, record of public service to help people in need and role in positioning both Minnesota and the U.S. for a prosperous future in the global economy.

Bloomington is a place of historic importance situated near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Minnesota Rivers, and in close proximity to Historic Fort Snelling, completed in 1825. The soldiers of Fort Snelling mediated disputes between Minnesota's Dakota and Ojibwe Indians. In 1843, the first European settlers built a cabin near the current 10th Avenue Circle and taught farming methods to Dakota Indians. The territory to the west opened to settlers in 1851.

Bloomington is a city with tremendous historical pride and patriotism and we honor all of Bloomington's courageous members of our armed forces who have fought for freedom. Bloomington was also the home of Tom Burnett, Jr., one of the heroes of Flight 93 on September 11, 2001.

Madam Speaker, Bloomington is home to 85,172 wonderful people and it has been my pleasure to represent all of them in Washington the past 18 years. Bloomington natives have been leaders in commerce, technology, environmental awareness, sports and the arts. Control Data was born in Bloomington and was one of the pioneering supercomputer firms. For most of the 1960s, it built the fastest computers in the world.

It has been my great pleasure to work with the Bloomington Art Center on the 3rd Congressional District High School Arts Competition every year. Bloomington's public schools have produced some of our Nation's best and brightest. Bloomington is also home to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which has been so critical to preserving water quality throughout the Midwest and the Mississippi River Valley all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Madam Speaker, you could travel this entire Nation and not find a more caring, committed, hard-working and innovative community. Bloomington is home to Minnesota's first major league baseball and football teams and the world famous Mall of America, and it is adjacent to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Bloomington has been the face of Minnesota to many all across this great land. For that we thank all the people of Bloomington for helping boost Minnesota's image in the eyes of the world.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the historic significance of the Sesquicentennial Celebration to the Community of Bloomington, to the State of Minnesota, and to the United States of America, we are pleased to dedicate May 11, 2008, as the Bloomington Sesquicentennial Day in Minnesota. Happy 150th birthday, Bloomington, Minnesota!

SENSE OF HOUSE OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, this week (May 4-May 10) we celebrate Teacher

Appreciation Week, and Tuesday, May 6, as National Teacher Day. These days have been set aside as a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives.

Last year, the National Education Association (NEA) conducted an online poll asking teachers what kind of gift would most make them feel appreciated. The answer? A simple "thank you," according to nearly half (48 percents) of all respondents.

Such humility comes as no surprise. My mother was a public school teacher, so I know firsthand how many sacrifices teachers make both with their own money, their time and their heart. They work long hours and are often underappreciated. Yet, few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do. I bet many of us learned life lessons that we carry with us today because of a special teacher. I don't know that we can ever say "thank-you" enough times to teachers who have made a difference in our lives. This week, I hope we'll all take a minute to tell a special teacher "thank you"—a simple thank you card, a quick phone call—it means a lot.

I recognize that these are small ways to honor teachers, and that we have to put our money where our mouth is. Teachers give so much to support Kansas students—it's high time that Congress repays the favor. Here are some of the ways I have made a commitment to helping teachers:

Providing tax relief for teachers. I co-sponsored H.R. 549, the Teacher Tax Relief Act to increase and make permanent a tax deduction of up to \$400 for elementary and secondary school teachers. I am also a co-sponsor of H.R. 3605, introduced after H.R. 549, which will increase the deduction to \$500. This deduction would help teachers recoup expenses when they use their own money to buy classroom supplies.

Funding Continuing Education for Teachers. I voted for the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES) Act, which became law in August, 2007. The act provides professional development for teachers, ensures more highly qualified classroom teachers in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology, and provides funding to improve laboratory equipment and facilities.

Student Loan Assistance. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which I voted for and was signed into law by the President in September, 2007, includes a tuition assistance program for public school teachers who commit to working in impoverished areas or in high-need subjects.

Public schools are at the heart of any community and I believe we all have to work together to make our schools the best that they can be. That means everyone in the community—parents, business owners, retirees, local government and students must pitch in.

This week is an opportunity for all of us to get involved. That apple on the desk or a thank you card is an important first step. But, let's use this week to learn about and advocate for high standards for our public schools and appropriate compensation for teachers. A community's active support of the work that teachers do, combined with that "thank-you," can make changes that will last for generations to come.

HONORING CAREER OF DR. SARAH
N. DENMAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Sarah N. Denman and her 33 years of service to the students and faculty of Marshall University. Marshall University is home to 14,000 of West Virginia's best and brightest students and one of the finest public universities in the Nation. For the last 9 years, Sarah has served as the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Marshall University and is now set to retire on May 10, 2008, with Marshall's 171st Commencement.

Born and raised in Kenova, West Virginia, Sarah has devoted her life to improving our State's educational opportunities. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Marshall University and her doctorate in higher education administration from West Virginia University. She then taught for 6 years at Ceredo-Kenova High School before joining Marshall's faculty. At Marshall, she has served as Coordinator of the Communications Program, Associate Dean for the Community College, Higher Learning Commission Consultant Evaluator, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and since 1999, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

During her tenure, Sarah has been a godsend to Marshall University, helping it expand and flourish, and has played a powerful role in transforming a once humble Marshall College into the internationally renowned university it is today. From Associate Professor to Provost, Sarah has left her mark on virtually every aspect of the University and touched countless lives of those around her.

Marshall's academic programs have been blessed by her guidance and, in turn, southern West Virginia has been blessed by Marshall. Thanks to her hard work and dedication at Marshall, the best and brightest of West Virginia's students have access to the higher education they need—without leaving the home they love—to succeed in the global economy.

Sarah's list of accomplishments far exceeds her years of service. She has nurtured generations of young minds and helped shape the higher education system in West Virginia. Her dedication to her work and commitment to helping others are examples to us all.

I again congratulate Sarah for her 33 years of dedicated service at Marshall University and wish her continued success in retirement and all her future endeavors.

NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTOR
AND MORTICIAN RECOGNITION
DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res.

892, a resolution that designates March 11 as "National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day."

Funeral directors and morticians are vitally important in helping families mourn death, celebrate a life, and begin the process of closure. They also give advice on the decisions one needs to make as a caretaker and as a provider of a funeral service. According to the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association, "The funeral ritual is helpful and valuable for all who feel the loss of the deceased. It validates life and allows us to go on living. The ritual aspect is important for closure and social reasons. Attending the funeral allows us to deal with the loss, says goodbye, and reaffirms the importance of living."

Mayor Bill Sandberg of North Saint Paul, who died on April 20, 2007, was one of my mentors. He spent his career as a funeral director in the St. Paul area and was active in the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association and a Heritage Club member of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA). NFDA was established in 1882 in order to better serve the public and its members. Today, it is the oldest and largest national funeral service organization in the world.

I want to thank funeral directors and morticians for their dedication to this profession and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 981—RECOGNIZING MARCH 6, 2008, AS THE FIRST-EVER WORLD GLAUCOMA DAY, ESTABLISHED TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF GLAUCOMA, A LEADING CAUSE OF PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 981, recognizing March 6, 2008, as the first-ever World Glaucoma Day, established to increase awareness of glaucoma, a leading cause of preventable blindness. I want to congratulate my colleagues Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN for introducing this important resolution and together with Congressman PETE SESSIONS for bringing this measure forward. As a cosponsor of this resolution, I am proud to speak out in favor of adequate Federal funding, legislation when indicated, greater support for glaucoma education and awareness, screenings, regular eye examinations, follow-up, treatment and research. Raising the level of awareness about the effects of this devastating eye disease, and drawing attention toward taking the necessary steps to preserve sight has been of great importance to me, and a special mission for many years.

The resolution expands awareness by calling attention to this dreadful disease that can rob individuals of the priceless gift of sight. Glaucoma, an eye disorder that damages the optic nerve, is a leading cause of irreversible blindness, and affects more than 3 million people. It is often referred to as the "sneak thief of sight," as many are not aware that they have the disease because it has no noticeable early warning signs, symptoms or

pain. It is estimated that 1.5 million Americans are losing their sight because they do not know that they have the disease and are not getting the treatment they need.

The resolution also supports early detection of glaucoma for those at risk, enhanced treatment for those affected, and expanded research. Those groups at highest risk for glaucoma include African Americans, Hispanics, people with a family history of glaucoma, as well as individuals with diabetes and/or hypertension. Senior citizens, in general, are also at high risk for glaucoma. Compelling studies and data show that glaucoma is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than in Caucasians, and that African Americans between 45 and 65 are 14 to 17 times more likely to go blind from glaucoma than Caucasians in the same age group. Glaucoma is also the most common cause of blindness in Hispanics, the fastest growing ethnic minority in the country, and they too are at particular risk of being blinded by the disease.

I am proud to support the resolution and underscore the use of legislation as a vehicle when necessary, support adequate Federal funding for early detection, treatment, research, annual screenings and comprehensive eye examinations for individuals over 40, and those at highest risk for glaucoma.

I applaud and support the mission and service of those agencies and organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute, Glaucoma Research Foundation, glaucoma specialists at teaching hospitals, clinics, colleges and universities across the country who demonstrate on a daily basis, their dedication and commitment toward combating this devastating disease.

I am particularly proud of the work of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, a non-profit organization and the affiliation that I share with my colleague and friend Congressman Ed TOWNS, as founding members of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a non-partisan body of more than 90 congressional members in the House and Senate. I urge my colleagues who are not members of the caucus to join to promote free glaucoma screenings, education and awareness within your districts.

Finally, I join in with my colleague Congressman Ed TOWNS of New York and urge the Energy and Commerce Committee to hold a speedy hearing on H.R. 3005, the Glaucoma Screening Act of 2007, a worthy and important bill introduced by our colleagues, Representatives SERRANO and BOOZMAN.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 242, H. Res. 1011—Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, as well as in the wider region that includes the northern region of the Central African Republic and

the Darfur region of Sudan—had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS AT ALLIANCE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Alliance Opportunity Center, which has served North Texas for 10 years.

The Alliance Opportunity Center, a non-profit organization supervised by Hillwood, Tarrant County College, Tarrant County Workforce Development Board, Texas Workforce Commission and the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, has long been committed to economic growth in Tarrant and Denton Counties, and their impact on the area is certainly cause for celebration.

The Alliance Opportunity Center's main goal is to shorten employee turnaround time, reduce job recruitment costs, and enhance employee skills and retention. This objective is achieved through the many services the AOC offers to the community. The Alliance Opportunity Center advertises Alliance job listings nationwide, maintains a current job-applicant database to best match open positions with available candidates, provides companies with the resumes of candidates best suited for open positions, and screens applicants for qualified referrals.

The organization also hosts the Annual Alliance Texas Hiring fair and coordinates and conducts job fairs for individual companies. The Alliance Opportunity Center staff keeps the interests of the community in mind, allowing area companies more time to focus on their core work and, in the process, making Alliance businesses an even greater success.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to honor Alliance Opportunity Center for its commitment to playing an active role in the development, improvement and success of the North Texas community. I am proud to represent such a prestigious organization in Texas' 26th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA KRUETZMANN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martha Kruetzmann on the celebration of her 100th birthday on April 2, 2008.

Martha was born on April 2, 1908 to Peter and Lydia Wigand in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She was one of four brothers and three sisters. Martha was married to the late Reverend A.I. Kruetzmann and has three children, Eileen, Evelyn, and Edith; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. She currently lives at the Hubbard Care Center in Hubbard, Iowa.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Martha's birth we have revolutionized air

travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Martha has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Martha Kruetzmann for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Martha in the United States Congress and I wish her happiness and health for many years to come.

FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay recognition to the Filipino veterans who so bravely served under the U.S. flag during World War II.

The Philippine Islands were a U.S. territory from 1902–1946. On July 16, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called over 200,000 Filipinos to service under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. They courageously fought side-by-side with soldiers from the United States, under the American flag and for a common goal to protect all nations from aggressive governments.

Madam Speaker, despite their patriotism, sacrifice, and service to this nation, the Filipino veterans of World War II have still not received the full benefits they were promised 62 years ago.

The average age of these heroes is 84. Congress has a moral obligation to provide for the Filipino veterans who fought as part of the United States during World War II before it is too late. We must restore dignity and honor to these proud veterans.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SGT. RICHARD J. “RICK” KASPER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from Chester County, Pennsylvania, who is retiring after a nearly 30-year career with the West Whiteland Township Police Department.

Sgt. Richard J. “Rick” Kasper joined the West Whiteland Police as a patrol officer in 1978. He became one of the first members on the force to be promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1988.

As a patrol shift supervisor for 25 years, Sgt. Kasper earned the respect of his colleagues for his ability to think on his feet and his sound judgment at times when officers' lives and the safety of the community were on the line.

Whether it was safely disarming a knife-wielding suspect or responding to a threat of violence at a local mall, the members of the West Whiteland Township Police Department

knew they could always depend on the steady hand of Sgt. Kasper to guide them through the tension-filled moments.

In addition to pinning on a badge for work each day, Sgt. Kasper passed on his knowledge about police work as one of the Department's original firearms instructors. Sgt. Kasper's dedication to the Department was surpassed only by his devotion to his family. In a testament to just how well Sgt. Kasper juggled the demands of police work and the needs of his family, his daughter, Heather, followed in her father's footsteps to become a police officer with a department in Florida.

Rick's career and accomplishments will be celebrated on Friday, May 9, 2008 during a dinner at the Downingtown Country Club.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service of Sgt. Richard J. Kasper, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GILBERT GUY FRANCIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Gilbert Guy Francis upon the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Gilbert Francis dedicated his life to selflessly serving our community and country. Following service in the Air Force, Mr. Francis graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education and subsequently taught for 10 years at Southwestern High School in Detroit. Many happily remember his efforts as he found the time to teach typing and accounting to the continuing education school at night and the regular students during the day.

Gil has many hobbies as well. He faithfully studies the genealogy of the Francis family, tracing their roots back to Wales. Gill also excels at stamp collecting, roller-skate dancing, and playing the piano. As well as being an expert keyboardist, Gil has along the way done much to further the study and appreciation level for pipe organs. Not the first book he has put pen to paper for, "Michigan Pipe Organ Theaters" is his latest anticipated forthcoming publication. He has distinguished himself serving as the Treasurer and then President of the Detroit Theater Organ Society for a number of successful years. These days, lucky listeners can happen upon the organ historian playing the pipe organ at the famed Redford Theatre for classic old films.

Gilbert Francis is a man of integrity, devoted to his family, who has dedicated his life to his wife Penny, his two children Carl and Nancy, and their wonderful grand- and now great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, for eighty years Gilbert Guy Francis has faithfully served his family and community. As he enters the next phase of his life, he continues a legacy of dedication, skill of craft, and dignified leadership. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gilbert upon this momentous day and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 5th, 2008, I was absent for legislative business to attend a Department of Defense event in my district.

Had I been present, on H. Res. 952 to establish a National Teacher's Day, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MRS. DEBORAH ANN HARRIS

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Deborah Ann Harris, a teacher at St. Francis Episcopal Day School in Houston, Texas, for receiving a 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Under a bill Congress passed in 1983, the President selects up to 108 teachers every year to recognize for their exemplary contributions. This Presidential Award is the highest honor a kindergarten through 12th grade math or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

Anne Chisholm, middle school principal at St. Francis Episcopal Day School, says of Mrs. Harris, "Debbie has a true passion for life and teaching science, the world is her classroom. Debbie sees the goodness in people, and she believes that all children can be great and she exhibits this through her teaching."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Mrs. Deborah Ann Harris for inspiring the students at St. Francis Episcopal Day School, and to congratulate her for earning this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF HOME OWNER-SHIP TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, today I, along with several of my colleagues, am introducing legislation to provide homebuyers with incentives to purchase as a way of eliminating the excess inventory of homes, relieving some of the pressure on falling housing prices, and increasing housing demand at a time when mortgage lenders are tightening up their loan requirements.

According to the Nebraska Business Forecast Council, December 2007, inventories of completed and unsold housing units in Nebraska remain high. Although housing construction in Nebraska did not experience the surge seen on the east and west coasts, it could take the balance of 2008 before new house inventories in Nebraska are drawn down. Reducing these housing stocks in Nebraska is critical to the continued growth of

Nebraska home builders and the many other sectors of the economy dependent on the housing construction industry.

According to the National Association of Realtors, total housing inventory rose 5.5 percent at the end of this January to 4.19 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 10.3-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 9.7-month supply in December. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan noted in November 2007 that reducing home inventories is critical for the health of the economy.

Madam Speaker, under the legislation I am introducing today, home buyers who purchase a qualified principal residence within a year of the Act's enactment will be eligible for a one-time tax credit of 10 percent of the home's purchase price, up to \$10,000. Mortgages which exceed the maximum original principal obligation of a mortgage the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation will purchase, will not qualify.

American taxpayers should not bear the burden of bailing out scam artists and speculators. This bill provides a market incentive which works to actively reduce local inventory of homes, stimulate the economy and empower homebuyers. I encourage my colleagues in the House to examine this bill and join me in helping provide Americans with a viable pathway to home ownership.

SALUTING MINNESOTA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CARLEEN GULSTAD OF HOPKINS NORTH JR. HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today is National Teachers Day, and Mr. RAMSTAD and I want to pay tribute to all of America's dedicated, talented and energetic teachers who have so much influence on our Nation's children and our country's future. We thank them for their sacrifice, selfless devotion to young people and their public service.

We want to call special attention today to one such teacher, Minnesota's "Teacher of the Year," Carleen Gulstad. Carleen, who lives in Maple Grove, teaches language arts at Hopkins North Jr. High School in Minnetonka, which serves the families of both the 3rd and 5th Congressional Districts. She has been teaching 8th and 9th grade students in English classes at Hopkins North since 1999.

Carleen is truly most deserving of this distinguished honor from Education Minnesota. The award was announced Sunday, May 4, at its 44th annual awards program in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, Carleen says that one of her guiding principles as a teacher is to treat each student as an individual. "Every kid counts. Every kid has a story. And every kid has value," Carleen says. "I teach them critical thinking. They need to decide for themselves."

That kind of approach is what makes Carleen a great teacher, and our Nation's outstanding teachers carry those very same traits, teachers who are brilliant in their ability to offer encouragement, who can spark the

imagination, instill in young people the drive to reach for excellence in all their varied pursuits and the confidence to speak their minds.

Carleen's principal at Hopkins North Jr. High, Pat Schmidt, says: "Carleen has the courage to lead discussions focusing on racial identity, religious affiliations, cultural and ethnic customs and family membership."

To all of America's teachers, thank you for your steadfast commitment to quality education. Thank you for caring so much about our kids and their future. Thank you for overcoming immense challenges to provide Minnesota's and America's children with the best education.

You hard-working, dedicated educators are Minnesota's and America's unsung heroes. With great challenges ahead, we need more than ever to put partisanship aside, take off our Republican hats and our Democrat hats and come together as Americans. We must find common ground to adequately support public education and provide maximum flexibility at the local level to manage our schools and teach our children.

Madam Speaker, our Nation salutes Carleen Gulstad and all our remarkable teachers who bring an exciting world of opportunity and justice to the door of our children's classrooms each and every day. It is often a thankless and difficult task, but today we thank them for their great perseverance, commitment and inspiration.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, as the State of Israel commemorates its 60th anniversary, I take this opportunity to recognize the long-standing friendship between the State of Israel and the Republic of Turkey.

Turkey was the first country with a predominantly Muslim population to step forward and recognize the Jewish State in 1949. Moreover, for three decades the Republic of Turkey remained the only Muslim country to have full diplomatic representation in Israel. This historical fact alone speaks well for the solid, special, and valuable relationship between Turkey and Israel. It is no wonder this relationship stands on its uniquely own merits—unmatched in the entire Middle East. Historical facts and recollections in the collective memories of both Turkish and Israeli peoples testify this sense of togetherness, standing shoulder to shoulder in testing times.

In recent years, more than 60 agreements have been enacted between the State of Israel and the Republic of Turkey in the economic and military fields. These have not only bolstered the bilateral relationship between the United States and these two close friends and allies, but have also created a legal framework that serves to institutionalize the bonds we have collectively developed. Since Turkey and Israel are the only two countries in the region that have embraced the principles of democracy and liberal market economy, it is easier to develop both the content and the depth of the bilateral relations in a multitude of different fronts.

Also, through a large volume of tourism and cultural sharing, countless citizens of Turkey and Israel, not just the two governments, have developed strong bonds of benevolence, a sense of togetherness, collaboration, and mutual respect.

At a time when dialogue between the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict is needed, Turkey is once again in the unique position of maintaining positive relations with all the parties to the conflict. This is undoubtedly an asset for the region, and a great contribution to the security of Israel. The Israeli President Shimon Peres and President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas have addressed the Turkish Parliament last year in November and praised Turkey as an important ally in the peace process. President Peres's speech was the first to a parliament by an Israeli head of state anywhere in a predominantly Muslim country.

We also remember too well through what is known as The Ankara Forum, that Turkey has recently sustained Israeli and Palestinian joint efforts to provide support for economic development in the West Bank. Recent reports indicate that Turkey, investing on this ground of mutually earned respect, trust and confidence and taking steps at the request of both parties, has now embarked on facilitating dialogue between Syria and Israel.

Most members of the international community share the goal of a peaceful and prosperous Middle East. The security of all the countries in the region, including Israel, is dependent on this. Turkey believes that dialogue and cooperation are essential tools in working to make this dream a reality, and it is well equipped to chart its course for the benefit of Israel and her Arab neighbors, all for a peaceful and prosperous neighborhood.

On this note, the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, I commend and encourage the strong relationship between our two allies, Turkey and Israel, which in fact stands stronger and more robust by each day offering hope for peace in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARY NAUGHTON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Naughton on the celebration of her 90th birthday on April 29, 2008.

Mary was born on April 29, 1918 in Illinois. She moved to Marshalltown, Iowa in 1948 when she married John Naughton. They happily had two daughters, three sons, nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. Mary currently resides in Marshalltown and is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past ninety years.

Since Mary's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Mary has lived through sixteen United States Presidents and twenty Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime the population of the United States has nearly tripled.

I congratulate Mary Naughton for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Mary in the United States Congress and I wish her happiness and health for many years to come.

ON THE PASSING OF MILDRED LOVING

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing of a great lady and civil rights icon, Mildred Loving.

I did not know Mrs. Loving personally, but I do know of her accomplishments for which she deserves our praise and gratitude.

At a time of Jim Crow and powerful forces of racial hatred and segregation, Mildred Delores Jeter and Richard Perry Loving proved that the power of love and the simple act of living true to their beliefs was stronger and more enduring than base bigotry.

When Mildred and Richard married, they were breaking the law. As an interracial couple, it was illegal for them to be married in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Instead, they obtained a marriage certificate from the District of Columbia but returned to live in Virginia, their home. A short time later, they were arrested, literally in their bedroom, and hauled off to jail. Under a plea bargain, they agreed to a 1-year suspended sentence under the condition that they not return together or at the same time to Virginia.

Inspired by the civil rights movement, the couple challenged Virginia's Racial Integrity Act, taking Loving v. Virginia all the way to the Supreme Court—and winning. As the Washington Post reported today, Richard Loving counseled the couple's ACLU attorneys that the real issue was actually very simple. "Tell the court," he said, "I love my wife, and it is just unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia."

In my efforts to grant federal recognition to Virginia's Native American people, I have come across similar stories of courage, determination and love fighting to overcome Virginia's legacy of racial division and subjugation.

Today we recognize Mrs. Loving, her life, her courage, and her determination for equality under the law. She was an American hero and we mourn her passing.

[From the New York Times, May 6, 2008]

MILDRED LOVING, WHO FOUGHT BAN ON MIXED MARRIAGE, DIES AT 68

(By Douglas Martin)

Mildred Loving, a black woman whose anger over being banished from Virginia for marrying a white man led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling overturning state miscegenation laws, died on May 2 at her home in Central Point, Va. She was 68.

Peggy Fortune, her daughter, said the cause was pneumonia.

The Supreme Court ruling, in 1967, struck down the last group of segregation laws to remain on the books—those requiring separation of the races in marriage. The ruling was unanimous, its opinion written by Chief Justice Earl Warren, who in 1954 wrote the court's opinion in Brown v. Board of Education, declaring segregated public schools unconstitutional.

In *Loving v. Virginia*, Warren wrote that miscegenation laws violated the Constitution's equal protection clause. "We have consistently denied the constitutionality of measures which restrict the rights of citizens on account of race," he said.

By their own widely reported accounts, Mrs. Loving and her husband, Richard, were in bed in their modest house in Central Point in the early morning of July 11, 1958, five weeks after their wedding, when the county sheriff and two deputies, acting on an anonymous tip, burst into their bedroom and shined flashlights in their eyes. A threatening voice demanded, "Who is this woman you're sleeping with?"

Mrs. Loving answered, "I'm his wife."

Mr. Loving pointed to the couple's marriage certificate hung on the bedroom wall. The sheriff responded, "That's no good here."

The certificate was from Washington, D.C., and under Virginia law, a marriage between people of different races performed outside Virginia was as invalid as one done in Virginia. At the time, it was one of 16 states that barred marriages between races.

After Mr. Loving spent a night in jail and his wife several more, the couple pleaded guilty to violating the Virginia law, the Racial Integrity Act. Under a plea bargain, their one-year prison sentences were suspended on the condition that they leave Virginia and not return together or at the same time for 25 years.

Judge Leon M. Bazile, in language Chief Justice Warren would recall, said that if God had meant for whites and blacks to mix, he would have not placed them on different continents. Judge Bazile reminded the defendants that "as long as you live you will be known as a felon."

They paid court fees of \$36.29 each, moved to Washington and had three children. They returned home occasionally, never together. But times were tough financially, and the Lovings missed family, friends and their easy country lifestyle in the rolling Virginia hills.

By 1963, Mrs. Loving could stand the ostracism no longer. Inspired by the civil rights movement and its march on Washington, she wrote Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and asked for help. He wrote her back, and referred her to the American Civil Liberties Union.

The A.C.L.U. took the case. Its lawyers, Bernard S. Cohen and Philip J. Hirschkop, faced an immediate problem: the Lovings had pleaded guilty and had no right to appeal. So they asked Judge Bazile to set aside his original verdict. When he refused, they appealed. The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals upheld the lower court, and the case went to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Cohen recounted telling Mr. Loving about various legal theories applying to the case. Mr. Loving replied, "Mr. Cohen, tell the court I love my wife, and it is just unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia."

Mildred Delores Jeter's family had lived in Caroline County, Va., for generations, as had the family of Richard Perry Loving. The area was known for friendly relations between races, even though marriages were forbidden. Many people were visibly of mixed race, with *Ebony* magazine reporting in 1967 that black "youngsters easily passed for white in neighboring towns."

Mildred's mother was part Rappahannock Indian, and her father was part Cherokee. She preferred to think of herself as Indian rather than black.

Mildred and Richard began spending time together when he was a rugged-looking 17 and she was a skinny 11-year-old known as Bean. He attended an all-white high school for a year, and she reached 11th grade at an all-black school.

When Mildred became pregnant at 18, they decided to do what was elsewhere deemed the right thing and get married. They both said their initial motive was not to challenge Virginia law.

"We have thought about other people," Mr. Loving said in an interview with *Life* magazine in 1966, "but we are not doing it just because somebody had to do it and we wanted to be the ones. We are doing it for us."

In his classic study of segregation, "An American Dilemma," Gunnar Myrdal wrote that "the whole system of segregation and discrimination is designed to prevent eventual inbreeding of the races."

But miscegenation laws struck deeper than other segregation acts, and the theory behind them leads to chaos in other facets of law. This is because they make any affected marriage void from its inception. Thus, all children are illegitimate; spouses have no inheritance rights; and heirs cannot receive death benefits.

"When any society says that I cannot marry a certain person, that society has cut off a segment of my freedom," the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said in 1958.

Virginia's law had been on the books since 1662, adopted a year after Maryland enacted the first such statute. At one time or another, 38 states had miscegenation laws. State and federal courts consistently upheld the prohibitions, until 1948, when the California Supreme Court overturned California's law.

Though the Supreme Court's 1967 decision in the *Loving* case struck down miscegenation laws, Southern states were sometimes slow to change their constitutions; Alabama became the last state to do so, in 2000.

Mr. Loving died in a car accident in 1975, and the Lovings' son Donald died in 2000. In addition to her daughter, Peggy Fortune, who lives in Milford, Va., Mrs. Loving is survived by her son, Sidney, of Tappahannock, Va.; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Loving stopped giving interviews, but last year issued a statement on the 40th anniversary of the announcement of the Supreme Court ruling, urging that gay men and lesbians be allowed to marry.

IN HONOR OF COACH PHILIP LEVY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Coach Philip Levy, as he leaves the Veritas School to pursue his law degree at the University of Mississippi. At the Veritas School, Philip taught both Latin and humanities while also serving as a coach.

Philip Levy grew up in Jackson and has served as head soccer coach at the Veritas School for a year now. He coached both the high school boys and girls soccer teams. This year, he led the girls' team all the way to the State Championship. In his athletes, he built character, leadership, sportsmanship, and teamwork; in the classroom he trained his students to seek truth. The entire Veritas School is thankful for Philip's invaluable example that he provided to all of his students and athletes.

Madam Speaker, I hope the Congress joins me in paying tribute to Coach Philip Levy for his leadership and for serving as a role model. He has touched the lives of many young students, and I know they will be forever grateful. I wish him well in Ole Miss Law School and

know that he will be successful in his future endeavors.

SENSE OF HOUSE OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 952, to honor and recognize our Nation's teachers. I want to thank my colleague and good friend, Congressman RON KLEIN for sponsoring this resolution. Today marks the beginning of National Teacher Appreciation Week, but America's teachers deserve more than a week of recognition for their investment in our country's most precious resource, our children.

Too often teachers are overworked and underpaid. They spend long hours in the classroom, many hours after the school day coaching our kids and leading their extracurricular groups, and then go home to spend more time grading papers. They invest their own lives in the lives of our children, and every day they empower young people with the knowledge and tools they need to be successful and confident. America's future is in the hands of our children, and we owe our teachers a universe of thanks for their hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE BUCKHEAD COALITION'S INITIATIVE TO EQUIP PHARMACIES WITH BACKUP POWER GENERATORS TO BE USED IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Buckhead Coalition of Atlanta, Georgia, for its innovative program to ensure that Atlanta residents are able to access prescription medications in the event of a disaster or power outage. Buckhead Coalition is a nonprofit organization of chief executive officers, business owners and community leaders representing part of the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia. Led by its president and my good friend, former Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell, the Buckhead Coalition is advancing a plan to equip pharmacies and drug stores with backup power generators to ensure that people are able to have access to their medications in the event of a disaster, either natural or manmade.

One of the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast was the necessity for emergency generators in pharmacies. In today's business environment, pharmacies cannot operate without working computers, refrigerators and other electrical equipment. In the Buckhead area, of the twenty-two pharmacies, now only four do not have emergency generators. According to the American Pharmaceutical Association, the

pharmacies of Buckhead provide prescription medications to more than 32,000 of the neighborhood's 70,000 residents. An estimated 6,500 of these medications are dispensed on a daily basis, with many of them being time-sensitive medications for senior citizens.

In order to prevent a potential disaster, the Buckhead Coalition, in conjunction with Home Depot and Georgia Power, has created a subsidy to cover up to seventy-five percent of the cost for purchasing a generator. This subsidy significantly reduces the barriers of cost, making it much easier and more affordable for these pharmacies to be equipped with these possibly life-saving generators.

I commend the Buckhead Coalition, Home Depot and Georgia Power for coming together to provide this opportunity, this safety net, for my community. I encourage other communities to emulate this plan.

INTRODUCING THE U.S. COMMISSION ON REBUILDING AMERICA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the United States Commission on Rebuilding America for the 21st Century Act. The challenges of the 21st century require a renewed national focus on the infrastructure that is essential to our cities, our rural communities, our economy, and the health of our planet. We have neglected the foundations of America's communities, threatening our environment and our future economic prosperity.

This Act will provide a mechanism for Congress to reach out to the American people and develop a national vision to guide infrastructure investment for the twenty-first century. The legislation creates a commission of 17 members appointed by Congress, the Administration, and State and local governments, to synthesize existing reports to identify challenges and needs; to commence a thorough set of public hearings on infrastructure conducted in not fewer than 50 Congressional districts across the United States to ensure geographic and demographic representation; and to articulate a national vision for infrastructure investments.

Those challenges are both myriad and significant. Consider:

To avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must greatly reduce our carbon emissions. Transportation is the second largest—and fastest growing—source of U.S. CO₂ emissions. Personal vehicle use accounts for nearly 60 percent of these emissions.

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission recently calculated that maintaining our existing transportation system over the next 50 years will require \$225 billion annually.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our nation's public infrastructure—water, sewer, and transportation systems—a grade of D-minus, estimating that it will cost \$1.6 trillion over the next 5 years merely to repair our existing infrastructure.

More than 72,000 miles of municipal water and sewer pipe are more than 80 years old,

threatening the health, environment, and economy of communities large and small.

From 1999 to 2009, the Nation's electricity demand rose nearly 20 percent while our transmission capacity grew only 3.5 percent.

By 2050, we will build 89 million new or replaced homes as well as 190 billion square feet of new offices and other non-residential buildings. Strategic development choices could reduce total transportation-related CO₂ emissions by 7 to 10 percent.

The American people, it should be noted, have met similar challenges in the past. This year marks the bicentennial of the Gallatin Plan, crafted by President Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin, to develop the infrastructure needed by our new nation. One hundred years later, President Theodore Roosevelt invited every state and territorial governor to join members of his Cabinet and Congress, professional organizations, and government bureaus in a National Conference at the White House to plan for the infrastructure needs for the 20th century. Today, a new national vision and plan is necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR TEACHERS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, this week we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week. It is a time for us to recognize the teachers who are working hard today to prepare students for the future, and the teachers who helped each of us become who we are. As a former teacher, I feel strongly about the work that today's teachers are doing. Beyond the rhetoric of "failing schools" there is a reality in which teachers in classrooms across the country are doing incredible work, with difficult students and limited resources. Many of these teachers are devoting extra hours to help struggling students, to learn new teaching techniques, and to develop innovative strategies and programs to improve student learning, and using their personal financial resources to acquire needed supplies and equipment.

There is no doubt that teachers are the core of our education system. As much as researchers and policymakers debate the values of standards and assessment and incentives and reform, education occurs in a classroom, and consists of an interaction between a teacher and his or her students. Good policy will help these teachers and support them in their work. America's teachers provide instruction in academic subjects, such as English, Math, Science, History, and PE, but they also teach social-behavioral skills, and look out for their students' health and well-being. Good teachers do not just teach a subject, they teach the whole child.

Today's teachers face a unique set of challenges in providing students with the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in tomorrow's workforce. To be competitive, our students need much more than they did just a decade ago. They now need advanced technology skills and a solid understanding of

science. That is why I will soon be introducing legislation to improve the coordination of the Federal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education efforts, helping foster cooperation between the States and Federal agencies.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, one of my highest priorities is increasing funding for Federal education programs that will ease the burden on States and localities to provide vital education services. We need to give our teachers more than an apple. They need well-equipped classrooms, instructional materials, and up-to-date facilities. They need smaller classes, a diverse curriculum, time to prepare, and adequate compensation. When budgets are tight, teachers are often expected to accomplish the same goals, but without sufficient help. We must increase funding for education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Mrs. Dawn O'Connor, who hails from California's 15th District, for receiving the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Since 1983, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching have honored outstanding kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics and science teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. I am honored to recognize Mrs. O'Connor as a recipient of the Presidential Award, the highest recognition that a mathematics or science teacher can receive. Mrs. O'Connor teaches seventh grade biology at Ascension Solarsano Middle School in the Gilroy Unified School District. Mrs. O'Connor and I had the pleasure of meeting last week during her visit to Washington, DC, and I was extremely impressed by her accomplishments.

THE DAILY 45: D.C. RESIDENT MURDERED ON SCHOOL STEPS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, somewhere in America, an average of 45 people are shot and killed at the hands of a gun-wielding assailant. This senseless loss of life comes in all shapes, sizes, colors and zip codes.

On March 12, 2008, 23-year-old Anthony Maddox, of Washington, DC, was killed on the steps outside Truesdell Elementary School when small children were still inside. Fortunately, no children were harmed but they were surely traumatized by the fact that a man from their neighborhood, casually socializing with neighbors on a balmy spring night, suddenly lost his life at the hands of a gun.

In the words of the late revolutionary patriot, Thomas Paine, "these are the times that try men's souls." These times require action, right now, from men and women like me who are determined to stop the carnage.

We must stop the senseless murders of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is May 6, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,888 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution, it says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without

due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,888 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is May 6, 2008, 12,888 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE McCOWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Florence McCown on the celebration of her 100th birthday on April 27, 2008.

Florence was born on April 27, 1908 on a farm near Aplington, Iowa. In 1933, she married Burton McCown, and the couple resided in Eldora, Iowa. Florence and her husband owned a hardware store in New Providence and a plumbing and heating store in Eldora. She also taught for several years in the New Providence schools. Florence was a member of a state tournament qualifying basketball team and remained active in athletic events for the majority of her life. Florence currently resides at Grandview Heights in Marshalltown, Iowa.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past ninety years. Since Florence's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Florence has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Florence McCown for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Florence in the United States Congress, and I wish her happiness and health for many years to come.